

NEWS RELEASE

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
37243-0655

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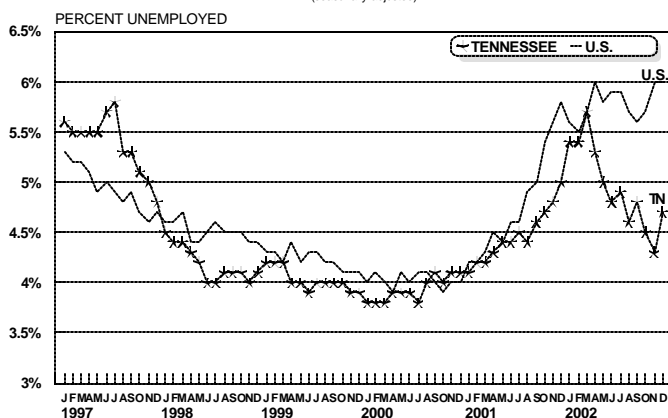
NASHVILLE—Tennessee's unemployment rate for the month of December is 4.7 percent, up from 4.3 percent in November, Commissioner of Labor & Workforce Development James Neeley announced today. The state rate remains below the December national rate of 6.0 percent.

"From December 2001 to December 2002, we saw a slow decline in job growth," Neeley said. "Even though we saw a slight decline in 2002, we are optimistic the New Year will bring more jobs to Tennessee."

November to December figures showed seasonal increases in retail trade up by 6,500 jobs, with the largest increases in the apparel and accessory stores. Local government increased by 1,600 jobs. Manufacturing continued to show a decline with 2,900 jobs lost. Amusement/recreation jobs declined by 900, and construction jobs declined by 700.

From December 2001 to December 2002, services grew by 13,900. Local government also showed some growth with 4,000 jobs. Major decreases took place in manufacturing, down by 12,200. Jobs in the transportation/communication/utilities industry decreased by 7,100, trade jobs declined by 5,200, and construction declined by 2,300 jobs.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - U.S. & TENNESSEE
JANUARY 1997 - PRESENT
(seasonally adjusted)



LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES SUMMARY - TENNESSEE

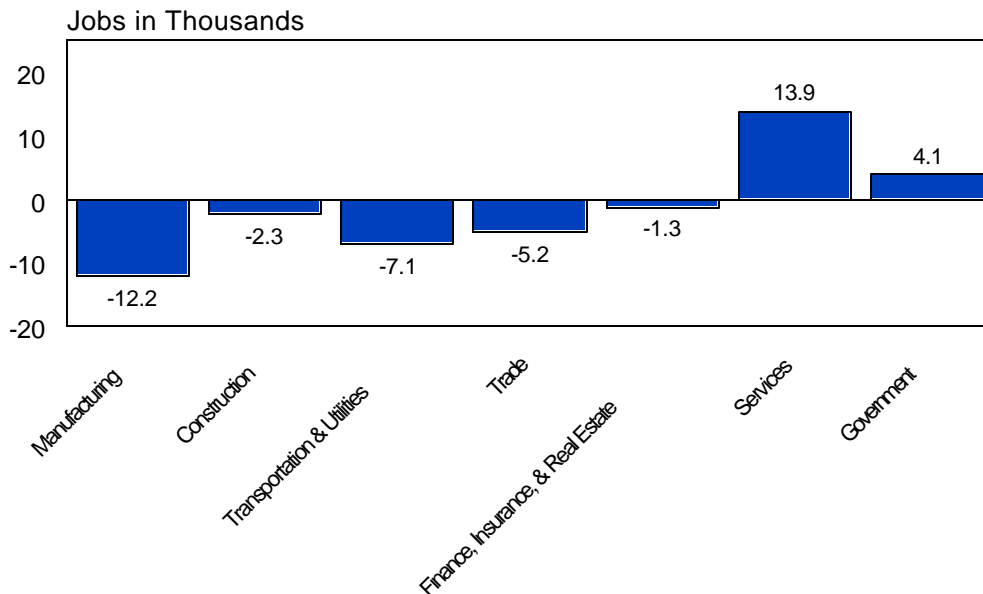
December 2002 (preliminary) - BM 2001

<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	<u>Unemployment Rate</u>		Rate Change
				Dec.	Nov.	
UNITED STATES	142,542,000	133,952,000	8,590,000	6.0 %	6.0 %	0.0 %
TENNESSEE	2,871,400	2,737,200	134,200	4.7	4.3	0.4

<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>						
UNITED STATES	142,298,000	134,232,000	8,066,000	5.7 %	5.7 %	0.0 %
TENNESSEE	2,855,200	2,736,900	118,300	4.1	4.3	-0.2

OVER THE YEAR JOB CHANGES

By Major Industry (December 2001-2002)



*** ATTENTION: County and MSA rates will be released on Thursday, January 30, 2003.**

(03-03)

NOTE: Information will be available on the Internet; enter "http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/labor_figures".

NOTE: Tennessee's employment and unemployment statistics are based on two major surveys. The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a survey by place of residence providing estimates on the number of people in the labor force, total employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate. Beginning in January 1992, the CPS data are seasonally adjusted for all states as directed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The business survey collects data by place of work and creates information about jobs in various industries. The business survey data are non-seasonally adjusted at this time.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

El Departamento del Trabajo y de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.